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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3684th meeting of the Security Council, held on 29 July 1996 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Burundi", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council regrets that both civilian and military leaders of Burundi did not resolve their differences through established constitutional mechanisms and condemns the actions that led to the overthrow of constitutional order in Burundi.

"The Security Council calls upon all Burundian leaders to respect the Burundi constitution and the will of the people of the country. The Council urges the military leaders of Burundi to restore constitutional government and processes, including the continuation of the elected National Assembly and civil institutions and respect for human rights. The Council stresses that the present situation in Burundi requires utmost restraint and calls upon all concerned to refrain from any actions and statements which could provoke further escalation of the crisis.

"The Security Council calls upon all Burundian parties and leaders to halt all violence and engage immediately in concerted efforts to achieve a lasting national settlement and reconciliation. The Council stresses their responsibility to protect the lives of all persons, including President Ntibantunganya, Prime Minister Nduwayo and members of their government, and expects them to maintain democratic institutions and to enter into negotiations for a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

"The Security Council reiterates its full support for regional mediation efforts, including those of former President Nyerere and the Organization of African Unity.

"The Security Council will remain actively seized of the matter."

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